



Spiritual and Moral Development Policy

Following in Jesus' footsteps we will:



Pray together, Play together, Learn together.

Aims and Purpose

Holy Family aims to foster the spiritual and moral development of all our children based upon Gospel values and the Catholic ethos which we endeavour to live out through our daily lives.

The purpose of this policy is to highlight opportunities for both Spiritual and Moral development throughout our school.

R.E and Worship have a central place in the whole of our curriculum and within R.E sessions we invite an active response in life and worship – such activities provide children with an active means of exploring their feelings more freely and deeply than through just words.

Spiritual and moral development of children and staff can be fostered through all areas of the curriculum including maths, English, PE, and science, as well as through the teaching and learning of the 'Come and See' RE curriculum.

We need to remember that as a Catholic School we provide –
'A Catholic curriculum, one that uses not only R.E lessons but other curriculum areas to lead children into an encounter with God.'

Contents of Policy

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We aim to enhance Spiritual development in our school through –

Encouraging our children to engage in activities that involve listening, discussing and reflecting.

Giving the opportunity to engage in activities which involve questioning, valuing, creating, envisioning, empathising and imagining.

Reflecting on values, experience and attitudes of others e.g in discussion of History / Geography / environmental issues. In Literacy through story and drama. PE – attitudes and fairness / PSED – through circle time activities and R.E lessons.

Providing opportunities to understand and reflect on the physical world of God's creation through R.E, maths, DT, science as well as outdoor sessions and Forest School, assemblies and collective worship

Allowing children to explore their own feelings and emotions and to express them in their work through poetry, musical composition, creative arts, dance and prayers.

To encouraging children to recognise God's presence in their work and lives, giving thanks to God or their gifts and talents, to celebrate and appreciate one another's abilities and achievements – celebration assembly, prayer times.

Developing / enhancing the children's appreciation for beauty, truth, love, goodness and wonder. (Forest School sessions and in the school grounds.)

We aim to enhance Moral development in our school through –

The Come and See programme which challenges children with questions such as 'who am I?', 'what is wrong?' 'how can it be resolved?'. Children are also encouraged to discuss and debate issues such as life/death, good/evil.

Teaching children to recognise and respect the codes and morals of the different cultures and diversity represented in school and in the wider community.

Frequently evaluating and updating our school mission statement. From this we have devised a framework for our moral teaching.

These aims and values are on which Holy Family basis its whole school ethos and contains everyday values such as honesty, respect and truthfulness and rejects bullying, cheating and dishonesty.

- Rewarding good moral decisions and behaviours from the children – rewards assembly and class reward systems.
- Direct teaching on feelings, emotions and giving children a sense of empathy and the impact they can have on others.
- Clear and concise anti bullying and behaviour policies which are also promoted and reinforced in the classroom and on the playground.
- Our inclusion policy encourages the whole school to be inclusive and promotes measures to prevent discrimination of any kind.
- Our children being given the responsibility and some ownership of expected behaviours and consequences for breaking rules through forming and operating a Pupil Council.

Opportunities for the development of Spiritual and Moral development are in every aspect of our school life and not just RE

The Role of the Teacher in Moral and Spiritual Development

As teachers we are helping to develop the ‘whole person’ to live in a modern day society. As an educational establishment we are concerned with the academic side of development, but as a Catholic School offering a Christ centred curriculum we are concerned with much more than only academia.

All adults in a school environment teach Spiritual and Moral development every day. Moral standards can be promoted consciously or unconsciously therefore values and standards set out through the mission statement should be evident in the life and daily workings of our school. These can be further promoted through-

Being good role models and leading by example. All staff should have respect and a good relationship with each other; they should also have respect and a good relationship with their pupils.

Rewarding the good behaviours we see.

Expecting high standards of both work and behaviour from the children.

Aiming to answer questions about the world truthfully and appropriately, to lead children in the direction of open ended enquiry, to lead them to a sense of awe and wonder and eventually allowing them to draw their own conclusions.

Allowing time for reflection – whole class, group, individual prayer/worship times, in RE lessons, circle times and thinking time at the end of the day.

Encouraging imaginative thinking through all areas of the curriculum – dance, drama, poetry, art etc.

Creating an environment for Spiritual and Moral development.

We hope to create a warm and welcoming environment at Holy Family that lives out our mission statement and shows appreciation and encouragement for every member of our school family.

The staff lead by example by working together as a team, children are encouraged to be caring and sensitive to the needs of others and to take responsibility for their actions.

The physical environment should be stimulating which displays and values our children's contributions and work. The values and aims of our school should be continually reinforced through images, posters, exhibitions and classroom displays.

Each classroom has an area for worship and reflection. The hall also has a focus for worship that is changed regularly in line with our Collective Worship themes.

Planning for Moral and Spiritual development.

Direct planning and teaching can be seen in the collective worship planners, weekly collective worship planning by staff, assembly notes and Come and see planning. We will also always be ready to be spontaneous with regards to Spiritual and Moral teaching and to develop any ideas and opportunities that come from the children or arise out of an unexpected situation.

Liturgy and Worship to promote Moral and Spiritual development.

Prayer is central to the life of our school and we offer children many and varied opportunities through:

The celebration of the sacraments – children are prepared in partnership with home, school and support from the Church for the sacraments of Reconciliation and The Eucharist. (Year 4 pupils)

Personal prayer and reflection – children are encouraged to develop their own personal prayers as well as the more traditional prayers of the Church.

Provision for Special Needs Children – as with all other areas, we offer an equality of opportunity for all children through differentiation and age appropriate activities.

Please also refer to our Prayer, Liturgy and Collective Worship Policy

Opportunities for Assessment

Assessing the spirituality and morality of a child is of course an impossible task, but children can be encouraged to assess themselves with regard to the acquisition of attitudes, and teachers can provide opportunities and devise strategies for them to do so, such as observing the children's ability-

- To listen
- To ask relevant questions
- To be still and reflective
- To understand
- To remember
- To appreciate
- To demonstrate through their actions.

Above all we must respect individuality and encourage original thinking.

Evaluation of Spiritual and Moral Development

Staff have a responsibility to review all areas of the curriculum on a regular basis and evaluate how moral and spiritual development is being promoted and its effectiveness. They should also undertake regular reviews of RE policies and the school mission statement. This evaluation takes place during staff meetings and INSET days.

Signed _____ Chair of Governors

Signed _____ Head Teacher

Date: September 2023

Review Date: September 2025